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Item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda*

BASIC PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COUNCIL: PROPOSALS ON THE BASIC PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COUNCIL FOR 1990 AND 1991

Report of the task force on documentation

SUMMARY

The task force on documentation, meeting in pursuance of paragraph 16 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/114, stressed the need for the full implementation of the relevant provisions of existing resolutions and decisions of the Council and of the General Assembly aimed at reducing the volume of documentation, as an integral part of the revitalization process of the Council.

It selected measures it considered particularly relevant directed (a) to the Bureau of the Council, in monitoring the preparation of documentation for the Council, (b) to its functional commissions and subsidiary bodies and (c) to the Secretariat.

The task force recommended that its mandate be continued in 1990.

* E/1990/2.

INTRODUCTION

1. In paragraph (d) of its decision 1989/105 of 5 May 1989, the Economic and Social Council decided:

> "To review within the context of its consideration of item 3 (Revitalization of the Economic and Social Council), in accordance with paragraph 1 (i) of Council resolution 1982/50 of 28 July 1989 and paragraph 2 (f) (vii) of Council resolution 1988/77 and in accordance also with its basic programme of work, all recurrent and other documentation requested under an existing legislative authority in order to determine whether any document has become redundant, has lost its usefulness or could be issued at less frequent intervals, on the basis of a report to be prepared for that purpose by an open-ended task force to be convened by the President."

2. The President of the Council requested Mr. Felipe Héctor Paolillo (Uruguay), Vice-President of the Council, to assume responsibility, on his behalf, for convening the open-ended task force and for reporting to the Council on the matter at its second regular session of 1989.

3. At the Council's second regular session of 1989, the Chairman of the task force reported orally on the results of its meetings. 1/ The Council, in paragraph 16 of its resolution 1989/114 of 23 July 1989, entitled "Further measures for the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/77 on the revitalization of the Council", took note with appreciation of the report made by the Chairman of the task force and requested it to continue its work with a view to submitting concrete recommendations to the Council at its organizational session for 1990, taking duly into account the relevant provisions of that resolution.

4. The task force held three meetings in 1990, on 8, 11 and 16 January 1990. The recommendations of the task force are set forth below.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TASK FORCE

5. In making its recommendations to the Council, the task force stressed that the implementation of the provisions of existing resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council and of the General Assembly aimed at reducing the volume of documentation 2/ was essential in order to attain that objective. In this regard, the task force emphasized the need for the full implementation of the relevant provisions of Council resolutions 1988/77 and 1989/114 concerning documentation.

6. Taking into account existing legislation and its own deliberations, the task force recommends to the Council the adoption of the following measures, which it considers particularly relevant to improving the quality and reducing the volume of documentation as an integral part of the revitalization process of the Economic and Social Council.

A. Measures directed to the Council

7. In monitoring the status of documentation, in pursuance of paragraph 10 of Council resolution 1989/114, the Bureau may wish to consider the possibility of proposing priorities for the preparation and issuance of documentation in order to ensure its timely submission to the Council and to avoid overwhelming the Council with excessive documentation.

8. The task force recalled that it had been the practice of the Council to hear oral reports on questions relating to special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance, as well as on other matters. The possibility of extending this practice should be explored.

9. The Council should, as a general rule, have before it under the appropriate agenda item, as required, only the report of the subsidiary body concerned, the relevant consolidated report and the relevant reports, as appropriate, requested in paragraphs 4 and 11 of Council resolution 1989/114.

B. Measures directed to the functional commissions and other subsidiary bodies of the Council

10. In submitting their reports to the Council, the functional commissions and other subsidiary bodies of the Council are requested:

(a) To ensure that their reports are presented in a format which will facilitate the Council's substantive deliberations;

(b) To ensure that their reports do not exceed 32 pages; that they are prefaced by an executive summary which also summarizes the actions recommended to the Council; and that the recommendations in the body of the report are presented in the form of draft proposals for approval by the Council;

(c) To continue the practice of submitting a draft provisional agenda for the following session, together with a list of the requested documentation, for approval by the Council.

11. The functional commissions and other subsidiary bodies of the Council are requested:

(a) To review all their recurrent documents to determine which have become redundant or have lost their usefulness or could be issued at less frequent intervals, to report thereon to the Council, at a time to be established by the Council at its organizational session for 1990, and to exercise restraint in making requests for new documentation;

(b) To refrain from requesting the Secretary-General to submit reports directly to the Council and/or the General Assembly and from transmitting reports submitted to them for consideration by the Council and/or the General Assembly.

C. Measures directed to the Secretariat

12. In preparing documentation for the Council, the Secretariat is requested:

(a) To adhere to a 24-page limit;

(b) To ensure that all Secretariat documents considered under a given item are consolidated into a single document that is prefaced by an executive summary highlighting matters requiring action or brought to the attention of the Council;

(c) To draw to the attention of the Council or other intergovernmental body concerned, before decisions are adopted, any request for documentation that exceeds the ability of the Secretariat to prepare and process on time and within approved resources;

(d) To ensure that, with the exception, as necessary, of reports of intergovernmental bodies reporting to the Council, documentation is available in accordance with the six-week rule.

13. The task force also recommends that its mandate be continued in order to enable it to review all recurrent documents submitted to the Council with a view to identifying those that may be superfluous, redundant or repetitious and to consider any other measures that may be deemed appropriate.

Notes

1/ See E/1989/SR.31.

2/ General Assembly resolution 36/117, Council resolutions 1770 (LIV), 1894 (LVII), 1979/1, 1979/41 and 1982/50 and Council decisions 65 (ORG-75) and 1988/101.

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BASIC PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COUNCIL: IMPLEMENTATION OF COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 1988/77 AND 1989/114

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

The present report on the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolutions 1988/77 and 1989/114 on the revitalization of the Council addresses issues relating to the programme of work and the organization of work of the Council.

In the context of a multi-year work programme for the in-depth consideration of major policy themes, the report contains the following proposals:

(a) That the Council limit its consideration to a maximum of three themes each year: one at the first regular session and two at the second regular session;

(b) That transitional arrangements be agreed upon for 1990 and 1991: the Council would consider one theme, operational activities for development, at its second regular session of 1990 and two themes, eradication of poverty and implementation of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade at its first and second regular sessions of 1991, respectively;

(c) That a six-year work programme for the in-depth discussion of major themes be established for the period 1992-1997 on a two-year roll-over basis. A number of themes are suggested for the Council's consideration.

* E/1990/2.

It is also proposed that the Council set aside a specific segment of its regular sessions for the consideration of major policy themes. Participation at such segments should be at a high level, for both Member States and the United Nations system.

In addition, the report contains proposals regarding issue-oriented consolidated reports, the consolidated note on the decisions adopted by the General Assembly in the economic, social and related fields and other relevant matters.

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INTRODUCTION

1. At its second regular session of 1989, the Economic and Social Council considered the report of the Secretary-General on the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council (E/1989/95) and in that regard agreed on further measures for the implementation of its resolution 1988/77. At the same session, the Council adopted resolution 1989/114, in which it decided to consider and take decisions on a number of issues arising from its resolution 1988/77 and from the report of the Secretary-General, at its organizational session for 1990.

2. The General Assembly, in its resolution 44/103 on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields, stressed the need for the full implementation of Economic and Social Council resolutions 1988/77 and 1989/114, including the provisions related to the secretariat support structure of the Council, and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of those resolutions to the Economic and Social Council in order for the Council to review the matter at its second regular session of 1990. Accordingly, an item on the revitalization of the Council has been included in the proposed provisional agenda for the Council's second regular session of 1990 (see E/1990/1, sect. I.B).

3. The Council, at its organizational session for 1990, will, inter alia, address the following issues:

(a) A draft six-year work programme on major policy themes in the economic and social sectors as referred to in Council resolution 1988/77, paragraph 2 (e) (iii) (see resolution 1989/114, paras. 3-5 and 24 (a));

(b) Modalities for in-depth discussions on major policy themes, possibly in a high-level segment of the Council (see resolution 1989/114, para. 24 (c));

(c) The format of the report of the Council to the General Assembly (see resolution 1989/114, para. 17);

(d) Arrangements for the 1990 annual policy review of operational activities for development. The President of the Council for 1990 has been requested to hold informal consultations in this regard prior to the organizational session of 1990 (see decision 1989/186).

I. MULTI-YEAR WORK PROGRAMME

4. In resolution 1989/114, paragraph 24, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to it in sufficient time for consideration at its organizational session for 1990 proposals for a draft six-year work programme on major policy themes in the economic and social sectors, as referred to in Council resolution 1988/77, paragraph 2 (e) (iii).

5. In order to formulate a coherent and useful multi-year work programme on major policy themes, a number of factors should be taken into consideration. It will be recalled that the purpose of the thematic analyses, as set out in Council resolution 1988/77, is to provide the framework for in-depth discussions by the Council on previously selected major policy themes each year, particularly major issues identified in the medium-term plan of the United Nations, in order to assist it in carrying out its responsibilities more effectively in policy formulation, priority-setting, co-ordination and monitoring of United Nations programmes in the economic and social sectors. In adopting the main elements contained in the report of the Secretary-General in this regard (E/1989/95), the Council, in its resolution 1989/114, decided that the thematic analyses should review existing activities and be forward-looking in identifying policy options.

6. While the multi-year work programme must reflect the medium-term plan, it is clear from the legislation that the scope of coverage of the analyses goes beyond the medium-term plan of the United Nations. In resolution 1988/77, the Council clearly indicated that the multi-year work programme would be derived, inter alia, from the priorities set out in the medium-term plan of the United Nations and the work programmes of other relevant United Nations bodies. It also indicated that the analyses were expected to assist the Council in considering the activities and programmes of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in order to ensure that they were compatible and mutually complementary. In resolution 1989/114, the Council decided, in the context of its consideration of major policy themes, to review the functioning of the relevant subsidiary bodies with a view to developing common approaches to co-ordination, monitoring and follow-up.

7. Taking into account the overall background and the recent discussions on this matter in intergovernmental forums, some suggestions are offered below to assist the Council in identifying themes that could be included in the multi-year work programme:

(a) A theme should have substantive and operational relevance for a number of organizations of the United Nations system;

(b) The deliberations of the Council on a theme and the recommendations emanating therefrom should contribute to greater comprehension of the inherent policy issues and more cohesive programme planning and harmonization and should enable Governments to identify clearly the emerging issues for future consideration;

(c) The timing of the Council's consideration of a theme should take into account its consideration by other intergovernmental bodies or conferences;

(d) Where appropriate, a theme could relate to the preparation for or follow-up to major conferences, declarations and decades.

Structure of thematic analyses

8. Since the thematic analyses are expected to be brief and forward-looking, they should contain a concise historical review. The main sections would deal with the Council's central responsibilities, taking into account relevant material in the

issue-oriented consolidated reports called for in Council resolution 1988/77. It may be recalled that in resolution 1989/114, paragraph 5 (a) to (h), the Council specified that the thematic analyses should:

(a) Describe the issue and the relationships between fields, sectors and activities of the bodies of the United Nations system concerned;

(b) Provide information on recent conclusions and recommendations of the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system concerned;

(c) Review relevant policy decisions and recent, ongoing and planned programmatic activities relating to the theme and their system-wide implementation, highlighting practical problems encountered;

(d) Identify emerging problems and the potential need for action by the United Nations system;

(e) Draw attention, as appropriate, to both social and economic aspects of the selected policy theme;

(f) Recommend substantive and programmatic steps to promote complementarities, co-operation and joint activities, fill gaps and reduce duplication in the United Nations system;

(g) Propose co-ordinated measures to translate legislative mandates and overall guidelines into programmes, taking into account the structure of the United Nations system and the respective areas of competence of its organizations;

(h) Propose monitoring arrangements.

9. While the focus of the thematic analyses should be forward-looking, they should also identify practical problems, offer clear policy options and provide a basis for priority-setting by the Council. The analyses should also reflect, as appropriate, other dimensions of the theme relevant to the problems identified and solutions recommended, including operational aspects of the issues.

10. It will be necessary for the substantive entities of the United Nations concerned to be actively involved in the process of the Council's in-depth consideration of major policy themes, including their identification, the preparation of analyses, implementation and monitoring. The machinery of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) and, if necessary, ad hoc co-ordination arrangements will be utilized. This will require effective guidance and technical monitoring of the preparation of the thematic analyses by the Secretariat in order to ensure objectivity, consistency of policy orientation, methodology, format and presentation, as well as follow-up. At this stage, in accordance with the note by the Secretary-General (A/44/747), these responsibilities should be carried out by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, with appropriate assistance from the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and other substantive offices concerned.

Proposals for a multi-year programme

11. At its present session, the Council may wish to identify major themes for in-depth consideration in 1990 and 1991, without prejudice to its long-term work programme. Given the scope of the thematic analyses, two years of lead time will generally be necessary for their preparation. For 1990 and 1991, however, it is suggested that the Council, on an exceptional and experimental basis, confine itself to the in-depth consideration of one major policy theme, which could be scheduled for the second half of the year, and two themes in 1991, one each at its first and second regular sessions.

12. For 1990, the theme selected should be one for which some work has already been undertaken within the Secretariat so that appropriate documentation can be prepared in sufficient time for submission to the Council. Consequently, the Council may wish to consider the following suggestions of major policy themes for the years 1990 and 1991, as a transitional arrangement before the Council's six-year work programme goes into effect in 1992:

Major policy themes for 1990 and 1991

Year	First regular session	Second regular session
1990	None	Operational activities for development
1991	Eradication of poverty	Implementation of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade

13. The Council should consider establishing in 1990, on a provisional basis, a six-year work programme for the in-depth discussion of major policy themes that would begin in 1992 in correspondence with the six-year cycle of the medium-term plan of the United Nations. It should be clearly understood that while the multi-year work programme for the period 1992-1997 may be established on a provisional basis by the Council in February 1990, it would be updated and adjusted on a two-year roll-over basis in order to ensure that it was consistent with the changing needs and priorities of Member States and took into account recent developments. Within the multi-year work programme, the Council could address major issues identified in the United Nations medium-term plan and in the plans and programmes of other organizations of the United Nations system. The Council should, as envisaged in resolution 1988/77, paragraph 2 (a) (iii), address, as and when necessary, urgent and emerging issues relating to acute international economic and social problems, possibly as one of the major policy themes.

14. To facilitate the deliberations of the Council the outline of the proposed medium-term plan of the United Nations for the period 1992-1997, indicating major programmes and programme structures in the economic, social and related fields, is reproduced in the annex below.

15. In order to improve the focus of the Council, ensure high-level expert participation by the Governments and senior officials of the United Nations system, and allow adequate time for the Secretariat to prepare relevant thematic analyses, the Council should consider a maximum of three themes each year. Furthermore, in formulating the multi-year work programme, due consideration should be given to the need for an adequate balance between themes in the social and economic sectors.

16. Taking into account the above factors, the outline of the proposed medium-term plan of the United Nations for the period 1992-1997 and the plans and programmes of work of the organizations of the United Nations system, the Council may wish to consider themes from the following areas for inclusion in the first six-year work programme (1992-1997):

(a) For the first regular session, beginning in 1992:

Status of women;

Human rights and development;

Humanitarian assistance;

Refugees and internally displaced persons;

Social policy and development;

Health and education;

International drug control;

Crime prevention;

Adjustment, structural change and vulnerable groups;

Rights of the child;

Families in the development process;

Demographic trends and development;

Urban growth and social policy;

(b) For the second regular session, beginning in 1992:

External debt, resource flows and adjustment policies;

Disaster reduction;

Environment and development;

Human resource development;

Regional co-operation;

African economic recovery and development;

Technology and development;

World food production, hunger and food aid;

Economic and technical co-operation among developing countries;

The least developed countries;

International trade and commodities;

Natural resources, population and environment;

Transport and communications for development;

Energy and development;

Transnational corporations and foreign investment;

National structural change and economic reform;

Entrepreneurship and economic development;

Structural imbalances in the world economy;

Human settlements.

17. The above list is indicative of the nature of themes that could be incorporated in the multi-year work programme. This, along with the outline of the proposed medium-term plan of the United Nations for the period 1992-1997, would assist the Council in its deliberations on the subject. Attention is also drawn to the Council's decision to conduct a comprehensive policy review of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, once every three years, as one of its major policy themes (resolution 1988/77, para. 2 (d) (iii)).

18. The following arrangements are suggested for the preparation and consideration of major policy themes for 1990 and 1991:

Preparation and review framework

Year	Intergovernmental action	Secretariat action
1990 (Feb.)	Council reviews Secretary-General's draft programme, selects policy themes for in-depth discussion	Prepares analysis on selected policy theme for 1990
1990 (July)	Council undertakes in-depth discussion of selected policy theme; indicates relative priorities; suggests measures for enhancing interrelated work and strengthening co-ordination	(a) ACC considers co-ordinative steps to be taken in current biennium (b) United Nations system takes Council's recommendations into account in preparing 1992-1993 work programmes (c) Secretariat prepares analyses on policy themes for 1991

Year	Intergovernmental action	Secretariat action
1991 (Feb.)	Council reviews its multi-year work programme and considers, if necessary, any changes in the future programme, as well as the question of urgent and emerging issues	Assists Council, as appropriate, in identifying urgent and emerging issues
1991 (May) (July)	Council undertakes in-depth discussion of selected policy themes for 1991	Prepares analyses on selected policy theme for 1992

II. MODALITIES FOR IN-DEPTH CONSIDERATION

19. In resolution 1989/114, paragraph 24 (c), the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to it proposals for modalities for the in-depth discussions on major policy themes, possibly in a high-level segment of the Council. This question has been considered in the light of a number of factors, including the programme of work and the working arrangements of the Council itself, the nature of the analyses, and the need for high-level expert participation, which could have a bearing on the Council's ability to fulfil the objectives of its in-depth discussions on major policy themes. Having taken those factors into account, two possible arrangements could be envisaged for consideration: (a) the Council could organize separate subject-oriented sessions at an appropriate time; (b) the Council could give in-depth consideration to major policy themes at its regular sessions.

20. Given the existing arrangements, the Council's work programme and the need to ensure high-level expert participation by Governments and senior officials of the United Nations system, it would be more appropriate to consider major policy themes in depth at the Council's two regular sessions. However, the Council must clearly identify appropriate segments of those sessions to consider the themes. It has been suggested that the Council consider one thematic analysis at its first regular session each year. For this purpose, the Council could set aside the first three plenary meetings of its first regular session. This can be done without disrupting the work of the Council and will allow for the possibility of high-level expert participation during the Council's discussion of the theme. As regards the second regular session, it has been proposed that the Council consider two themes each year. If the themes selected are such that they can be considered during the annual general discussion of international economic and social policy itself, there would be no need to set aside a separate segment to consider them. It is suggested that the in-depth consideration of the major policy themes take place immediately after the Council's general discussion. In the event that the two themes are to be considered separately, the Council could allow three days after the general discussion for that purpose. It should be stressed that the adoption of a multi-year work programme for the consideration of major policy themes should not add to the work-load of the Council. Rather, it should enable the Council to focus its work better. With the introduction of consolidated agenda items and the expected consolidated reports, the Council could consider reducing the time it devotes to its statutory or managerial responsibilities in order to consider the major policy themes within its regular work programme.

III. ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL

21. A number of issues need to be brought to the attention of the Council in the context of its decision to adopt a multi-year work programme for in-depth consideration of major policy themes. In his report to the Council (E/1989/95), the Secretary-General emphasized the importance of efficient organization of work to enable the Council to carry out its responsibilities in an effective and coherent manner. The report stated that a multi-year work programme and in-depth discussion of major policy themes should enable the Council, on the one hand, to focus on a limited number of core issues each year and, on the other hand, to perform its statutory functions in respect of the intergovernmental bodies reporting to it, or through it to the General Assembly. Attention is drawn in this regard to the suggestions made in paragraph 64 of the Secretary-General's report (E/1989/95). In organizing the work programme of the Council, particular attention should be given to its agenda and the review of its documentation. Unless the agenda and the work programme are rationalized, the Council will be confronted with a greater work-load and additional documentation. It should be noted that the Secretary-General in his proposals for the basic programme of work of the Council for 1990-1991 (E/1990/1 and Add.1) has made further efforts to consolidate agenda items. As regards documentation, the Council must redouble its efforts to review existing mandates, monitor new requests from its subsidiary bodies and rationalize its own requests for reports. Attention is drawn to the report of the Council's task force on documentation (E/1990/13), which contains a number of recommendations aimed at improving the quality and reducing the volume of documentation.

IV. FORMAT OF THE REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

22. In resolution 1989/114, paragraph 17, the Council decided to consider at its organizational session for 1990 the proposed format of the report of the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly. It will be recalled that in pursuance of Council resolution 1988/77, paragraph 2 (f) (vi), the Secretary-General put forward a number of ideas for improving the content and format of the report of the Council to the General Assembly (see E/1989/95, annex IV). These proposals are reproduced in annex II to the provisional agenda for the present session of the Council (E/1990/2).

V. ISSUE-ORIENTED CONSOLIDATED REPORTS

23. It will be recalled that in resolution 1988/77, paragraph 2 (f) (iii), the Council requested the Secretariat to prepare, on the basis of reports submitted by the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, issue-oriented consolidated reports on economic, social and related questions that the Council would consider under the consolidated agenda items. In his report to the Council (E/1989/95), the Secretary-General pointed out that the preparation of such reports would depend on the manner in which the Council decided to consolidate similar or closely related issues and would have implications for current reporting procedures; in this context, a number of questions were raised, such as whether the consolidated reports would replace the reports of treaty bodies or subsidiary

bodies, the consequences for the volume of documentation and the relationship between the consolidated reports and the thematic analyses; the Council was invited to identify similar or closely related questions on which consolidated reports could be prepared on a trial basis in order to help clarify the various issues arising from the request of the Council for such reports. The Council has yet to address itself to this matter.

24. Attention is drawn to paragraph 9 of the report of the Council's task force on documentation (E/1990/13), in which the task force recommended that the Council should, as a general rule, have before it under the appropriate agenda item, as required, only the report of the subsidiary body concerned, the relevant consolidated report and the relevant reports requested in Council resolution 1989/114, paragraphs 4 and 11.

VI. CONSOLIDATED NOTE

25. In resolution 1988/77, paragraph 2 (b) (i), the Council requested the Secretary-General to circulate each year to Member States and all organizations of the United Nations system, as well as to the Council at its organizational session, a consolidated note on the decisions adopted by the General Assembly in the economic, social and related fields, highlighting matters that required action by them. Accordingly, a consolidated note (E/1989/INF/2 and Add.1) was circulated to the Council at its organizational session for 1989. A similar consolidated note will be circulated at the organizational session for 1990 (E/1990/INF/2 and Add.1). However, based on the experience of 1989, in both the Council and the Secretariat, the Council may wish to consider whether the consolidated note should be discontinued, since the preparation and circulation of such a note seems to add to the overall volume of documentation without commensurate advantage to Governments.

VII. SECRETARIAT SUPPORT FOR THE COUNCIL

26. In a note to the General Assembly (A/44/747), the Secretary-General indicated his decision to assign the responsibility for ensuring the provision of substantive support called for in Council resolution 1989/114 to the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation. However, the Secretary-General further indicated that he would keep the secretariat structure under review. Consequently, the General Assembly, in its resolution 44/103, decided to review the efficiency and administrative functioning of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, including the secretariat structure, taking into account the major intergovernmental conferences scheduled to take place at the beginning of 1990, and requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly on this matter at its forty-fifth session. The Secretary-General will report to the General Assembly at that session in the light of the functioning of the secretariat structure.

Annex

RELEVANT MAJOR PROGRAMME AND PROGRAMME STRUCTURE OF THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997; RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENTS/OFFICES/DIVISIONS AND SPECIALIZED REVIEWING BODIES

Programmes	Responsible departments/ offices/divisions	Specialized intergovernmental or expert review body
MAJOR PROGRAMME III: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS		
12. Economic and Social Council affairs	Office for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services: Division of Economic and Social Council Affairs and Secretariat Services	None
13. Overall issues and policies, including co-ordination	Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation	None
	World Food Council secretariat	World Food Council
	Department of International Economic and Social Affairs: Interorganizational Co-operation and Joint Planning Sections	None
MAJOR PROGRAMME IV: INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT		
14. Global development issues and policies	Department of International Economic and Social Affairs: Office for Development Research and Policy Analysis	Committee for Development Planning
15. International trade	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	Trade and Development Board: Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget
	International Trade Centre	Joint Advisory Group on ITC/UNCTAD/GATT

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Programmes	Responsible departments/ offices/divisions	Specialized intergovernmental or expert review body
16. Development finance, resource flows and external debt	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	Trade and Development Board: Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget
	Department of International Economic and Social Affairs	
17. Special programmes and activities, including least developed, land-locked and island developing countries	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	Trade and Development Board: Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget
	Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation	None
	Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Co-operation, Decolonization and Trusteeship	None
18. African economic recovery and development	Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation: Secretariat of the United Nations Steering Committee for the Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development	None
19. Environment	United Nations Environment Programme	United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council
20. Science and technology for development	Centre for Science and Technology for Development	Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development
	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	Trade and Development Board: Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget

Programmes	Responsible departments/ offices/divisions	Specialized intergovernmental or expert review body
21. Population	Department of International Economic and Social Affairs: Population Division	Population Commission
	Department of Technical Co-operation for Development: Population Branch	
22. Natural resources	Department of International Economic and Social Affairs: Energy and Resources Branch	Committee on Natural Resources
	Department of Technical Co-operation for Development: Natural Resources and Energy Division	
23. Energy, including new and renewable sources of energy	Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation: Special Co-ordinator, New and Renewable Sources of Energy	Committee on Natural Resources
	Department of International Economic and Social Affairs: Energy and Resources Branch	Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy
	Department of Technical Co-operation for Development: Natural Resources and Energy Division	
24. Development planning, public administration, finance and management	Department of Technical Co-operation for Development	Meeting of experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance
25. Human settlements	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)	Commission on Human Settlements
26. Transnational corporations	United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations	Commission on Transnational Corporations

Programmes	Responsible departments/ offices/divisions	Specialized intergovernmental or expert review body
27. Statistics	Department of International Economic and Social Affairs: Statistical Office	Statistical Commission
	MAJOR PROGRAMME V: INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	
28. Global social issues and policies	Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs	Commission for Social Development
29. Integration of social groups	Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs	Commission for Social Development
30. Advancement of women	Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs	Commission on the Status of Women
31. International drug control	United Nations Office in Vienna: Division of Narcotic Drugs and Secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board	Commission on Narcotic Drugs International Narcotics Control Board
32. Crime prevention	Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs	Committee on Crime Prevention and Control
	MAJOR PROGRAMME VI: REGIONAL CO-OPERATION FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	
33. Regional co-operation for development in Africa	Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)	ECA
34. Regional co-operation for development in Asia and the Pacific	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)	ESCAP
35. Regional co-operation for development in Europe	Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)	ECE

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Programmes	Responsible departments/ offices/divisions	Specialized intergovernmental or expert review body
36. Regional co-operation for development in Latin America and the Caribbean	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)	ECLAC
37. Regional co-operation for development in Western Asia	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)	ESCWA
MAJOR PROGRAMME VII: HUMAN RIGHTS, FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS		
38. Promotion and protection of human rights	United Nations Office in Geneva: Centre for Human Rights	Commission on Human Rights
39. International protection of and assistance to refugees	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Executive Committee of UNHCR
	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)	Advisory Commission of UNRWA
	Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs in South-East Asia	None
40. Disaster relief, including special emergency relief operations	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator	None
	Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Co-operation, Decolonization and Trusteeship: Unit for African Emergencies	None
	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Assistance Programmes to Kampuchea	None

UNITED
NATIONS

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Letter dated 22 December 1989 from the Secretary-General
to the President of the Economic and Social Council

I should like to refer to Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/75 of 24 May 1989, entitled "Status of special rapporteurs". By this resolution, the Council decided to request the International Court of Justice to provide an advisory opinion on the legal question of the applicability of article VI, section 22, of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations in the case of Mr. Dumitru Mazilu as Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

The International Court of Justice, which was requested to deal with the matter on a priority basis, rendered the advisory opinion on 15 December 1989. The Court unanimously determined that article VI, section 22, of the General Convention is applicable to Mr. Mazilu.

Please find attached a copy of the advisory opinion. 1/ I have requested the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights to transmit copies of the advisory opinion to the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights and to the Chairman of the Sub-Commission.

Notes

1/ The advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice will be issued as an addendum to the present document.

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